

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 25

By Camper

A RESOLUTION to commemorate the birthday of Representative Johnny W. Shaw.

WHEREAS, it is the privilege of the members of this General Assembly to join those among our number as they mark milestones in their lives; and

WHEREAS, Representative Johnny W. Shaw celebrated his birthday on January 5, 2017, concluding another year of life well lived and ushering in a new one, full of promise and opportunity; and

WHEREAS, in January 2017, Representative Shaw began his ninth term as the representative of Tennessee State House District 80; he is the first African American to represent a rural West Tennessee district since the Reconstruction Era; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure with the Tennessee General Assembly, Representative Johnny Shaw has served on numerous committees, including Agriculture and Natural Resources, Budget Sub, Fiscal Review, and Children and Family; he currently serves on the Finance, Ways and Means; State Government; Government Sub; and Pensions and Insurance committees; and

WHEREAS, Representative Shaw is a member of the Rural West Tennessee Caucus, the Tennessee Arts Caucus, and the National Black Caucus of State Legislators; for six years, he served on the Black Healthcare Commission; and

WHEREAS, born in Laconia, Representative Shaw attended Fayette and Hardeman County public schools; he went on to earn a degree in theology from American Baptist College, Jackson Campus; and

WHEREAS, Representative Johnny Shaw is the CEO and co-owner of Shaw's Broadcasting, LLC, of Bolivar and has over forty years of experience in broadcasting; prior to

being elected to serve House District 80 in 2000, he served on the Hardeman County Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, a devout man of faith who leads a life of principle, Representative Johnny Shaw is the pastor of St. John Baptist Church in Stanton, where he has led the congregation for the last thirty-five years; and

WHEREAS, a man of integrity who seizes every opportunity to serve, Representative Shaw is a member and board member of several organizations that contribute to the common good. He is a board member of the University of Memphis Lambuth Campus and West Tennessee River Basin Authority; chairman of the West Tennessee Mental Healthcare board of trustees; a member of the Tennessee Association of Broadcasters, National Civil Rights Museum, and board of directors of the Community Rehabilitation Agencies of Tennessee. He is a lifetime member of the NAACP, as well as a former board member of the Jackson Chamber and former member of the Rotary Club in Bolivar; and

WHEREAS, Representative Johnny Shaw has often been duly recognized for his good work; he has been honored with the Impact on Aging award from the Southeast Region Association on Aging, the Distinguished Service Award from the Tennessee Association of Broadcasters, the C.A. Rawls Bridge Builder Award from West Tennessee African-American Entrepreneurs, the Capitol Dome Service Award from the American Cancer Society, the William Henry Miles Outstanding Community Service Award, the Jo Helen Imani Award from Jackson Affordable Housing, the Legislator of the Year Award from the Tennessee Development District Association, and the Chairman's Award from the West Tennessee Business Association; and

WHEREAS, Representative Shaw is blessed to walk through this life with his wife, Opal Johnson Shaw; together, they are the proud parents of six children; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated public servant, Representative Johnny Shaw serves his district and this State with distinction and decorum, and it is fitting that we honor him; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, that we hereby join Representative Johnny W. Shaw in celebrating his birthday, wishing him all the best in the years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.